

- 2 -

Serial No. 09/014.518

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and  
2 handling food articles thereon, comprising:  
3 providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat  
4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10  
5 inches;  
6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;  
7 said plastic material having a thickness between [0.008] 0.010 inches and  
8 [0.060] 0.030 inches;  
9 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the  
10 longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article  
11 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5  
12 ounces;  
13 placing said sheet on a flat surface;  
14 placing a food article on said sheet;  
15 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;  
16 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;  
17 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said  
18 cut pieces; and  
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

6. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food  
2 preparation, comprising:  
3 providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness <sup>f</sup> [less than] in the  
4 range of 0.010 to 0.030 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of  
5 75,000 to 200,000 psi;  
6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

[AMDXTHOM98.E28]

- 3 -

Serial No. 09/014.518

A2

- 8 placing said sheet on a flat surface;  
placing a food article on said sheet;  
10 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;  
flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;  
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said  
12 cut pieces; and  
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

---

Please add the following new claims:

---

A3

12. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food  
2 articles thereon, comprising:  
providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat  
4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10  
inches;  
6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;  
said plastic material having a thickness between 0.030 inches and 0.060 inches;  
8 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the  
longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article  
10 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5  
ounces;  
12 placing said sheet on a flat surface;  
placing a food article on said sheet;  
14 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;  
flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;  
16 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said  
cut pieces; and  
18 funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

- 4 -

Serial No. 09/014.518

A3

13. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation,  
2 comprising:  
providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of  
4 0.030 to 0.060 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to  
200,000 psi;  
6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;  
placing said sheet on a flat surface;  
8 placing a food article on said sheet;  
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;  
10 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;  
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said  
12 cut pieces; and  
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

Sub 133 14. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food  
2 articles thereon, comprising:  
providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat  
4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10  
inches;  
6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;  
said plastic material having a thickness between 0.015 inches and 0.040 inches;  
8 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the  
longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article  
10 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5  
ounces;  
12 placing said sheet on a flat surface;  
placing a food article on said sheet;  
14 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

- 5 -

Serial No. 09/014,518

Sub  
B3

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;  
16 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said  
cut pieces; and  
18 funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

M  
X

15. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation,  
2 comprising:  
providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of  
4 0.015 to 0.040 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to  
200,000 psi;  
6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;  
placing said sheet on a flat surface;  
8 placing a food article on said sheet;  
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;  
10 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;  
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said  
12 cut pieces; and  
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.